

ROOSEVELT COOL TO WAR VOTE PLAN

Does Not Believe It Consistent With U. S. Form of Government.

By the Associated Press.

President Roosevelt told a press conference today he did not believe a referendum on war was consistent with a representative form of government.

Asked by a woman reporter if he thought the requirement of a public vote before the Nation could go to war was consistent with the United States form of government, the President said the easiest way to answer that was to just say no and stop right there.

A petition circulated by Representative Ludlow, Democrat, of Indiana, proposing submission of a constitutional amendment for a war referendum, was signed by 218 House members, forcing the House to order a vote on the proposal.

No Comment on Panay.

The President had no comment on the Japanese bombing of the American gunboat Panay, referring questions to the State Department.

In response to other questions, Mr. Roosevelt said the Reconstruction Finance Corp. would continue to make loans to railroads in emergencies.

He said a statement by Chairman Jesse H. Jones that the corporation would make loans to needy carriers was not a revocation of administration policy. He added stoppage of such loans in the last few months was only a general rule and that exceptions were to be expected.

He said, however, there would be no exceptions to the decision terminating further allocations of emergency public works funds. That was finished, he said.

Waterway Barge Lines.

Touching on other subjects, Mr. Roosevelt expressed the belief the Government should hold on to its inland waterway barge lines as long as they are making money.

He said that when asked to comment on a remark by Maj. Gen. T. Q. Ashburn, head of the Inland Waterways Corp., that Government officials from the President down favored retention of the lines.

Gen. Ashburn was quoted as making the statement after receiving an offer to sell the lines to private interests.

The President said he had given very little thought to the subject in the past year. But, he added, he knew the lines were operating profitably, and as long as they did so he saw no particular reason for their sale.

AUTHOR IS FREED OF LARCENY CHARGE

Mrs. Valerie McMahon Released After Warrant From New York Is Canceled.

Mrs. Valerie McMahon, 43, of 1107 Sixteenth street N.W., author of children's books and promoter of a miniature capitol to train American youth in principles of government, was released by Judge John P. McMahon in Police Court today on cancellation of a fugitive warrant charging her with grand larceny in New York City.

Ten New York authorities notified police here that Mrs. McMahon was no longer wanted and asked that she be released.

The defendant was first arrested in September on charges of larceny after trying to grow out of her miniature capitol plan, and was released under \$500 pending trial. It had been charged that Mrs. McMahon had advanced \$125 by Mrs. Jennie Irvin of the Park Lane Apartments for the purchase of stationery to be used for the promotion of the miniature capitol. Later, Mrs. Irvin withdrew the charges when it was shown that the money had been spent for the purpose for which it was given.

20 HURT NEAR DETROIT IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Three Passenger Cars Overturn. Engineer Blames Wreck on "Spread Rail."

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Dec. 17.—Twenty persons were injured today when three passenger coaches of a Pere Marquette train bound from Detroit to Bay City, Mich., overturned 16 miles west of Detroit.

The passengers, including several college students en route home for the Christmas holidays, were tossed about as the coaches toppled down a 5-foot embankment.

The injured were carried 1,000 feet over ice-covered ties to ambulances, which took them to Redford Receiving Hospital, Detroit.

Allan Huston of Saginaw, Mich., the engineer, said he "suddenly felt the train dragging" and said a "spread rail" might have caused the accident. W. H. Wallace, Saginaw superintendent of the railroad, who was a passenger, said the rear wheels of the locomotive tender jumped the track.

Among the injured was Matt Buder, Flint, student en route home from Bay City (Va.) Military Academy for Christmas, head injured.

Officials intend to increase cotton production in Yugoslavia have recently trebled the output in the last year.

Hunted Felons



THEODORE COLE.



RALPH ROE.

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SEA OFF ALCATRAZ HIDES 2 WHO FLED

Warden Believes Convicts Died in Bay Waters. Boats Press Search.

By the Associated Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Heavy shore patrols and Federal and police boats searched the waters of San Francisco Bay today for two desperate criminals who escaped from Alcatraz Island's "escape proof" Federal penitentiary under cover of a dense fog.

Officials expected to find their bodies. There was only one chance in a thousand, authorities agreed, that Ralph Roe, 29-year-old bank robber from Duncan, Okla., and Theodore Cole, 25-year-old kidnaper of Stroud, Okla., still lived.

During a half hour between regular counting of prisoners yesterday afternoon the pair broke two panes of glass in a window and escaped from the machine shop where they worked. Hidden from tower guards by the densest fog of the year, they reached the outside wire fence where they jumped a gate.

"The cliff beyond the gate is almost sheer," said Warden James A. Johnston. "There is about a 20-foot fall, but it could be made in a jump or two." "After reaching rocks at the base of the cliff, officials said, the pair hid in caves on the island, plunged into the powerful ebb tide in an attempt to swim the mile and a quarter to San Francisco, or slid into the water to make a rendezvous with a confederate boat screened from the 12-acre rock by the fog.

The entire island, caves and all, was searched repeatedly without revealing further trace of the men.

"If they went into the water," Mr. Johnston said, "it was a long gambler's chance. I don't see how anybody could make it. There was driftwood in the water and I could see it swirling out. It went out at high speed, turning over and over."

"The tide would have swept them right out the Golden Gate into the sea. I don't see that the men had any chance of eluding it if they hoped to reach a prearranged boat, standing out of sight. I don't think they could have got to the boat."

Shopping Hints To Ease Burden Of Stores, Buyers

With the busiest shopping period of the season in the offing, Edward D. Shaw, secretary of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, today made the following suggestions to simplify the shopper's task:

Make out your tentative shopping list at home and route your shopping trip.

Get downtown early, when stores are less crowded.

Carry back with you at least the smaller bundles to avoid annoying mistakes in delivery.

If the article must be delivered, find out approximately when it will arrive and be sure someone is home at the time.

Keep your children out of the downtown section unless accompanied by parents or older adults.

Make as many of your purchases as possible in the next few days, because stocks are being rapidly depleted.

WAGE-HOUR BILL FACES TWO TESTS

Method of Administering Plan and Recommitment Must Be Decided.

By the Associated Press.

President Roosevelt's two major legislative proposals—the wage-hour and farm bills—approached final votes in the House and Senate today, although administration chiefs virtually abandoned hope for their enactment at the special session.

They wanted, however, to get the bills off the floor so they could try to pass the administration housing bill before Christmas.

During the holiday recess, they said, joint committees of Senators and Representatives can work out compromises on the House and Senate versions of the farm and wage-hour measures.

To clear the way for the housing bill, Senate leaders negotiated an agreement to lay aside the anti-lynching bill until the January session, when it will have right of way. It otherwise would have come up immediately after the farm vote.

Besides the housing bill, designed to stimulate private construction, there were authoritative indications the administration would ask for last-minute action at the special session on legislation to hasten the inauguration of the low-cost slum clearance program in charge of Nathan Straus. A legal technicality has been blocking that work.

A night session of the House was forecast, if necessary, to get a final vote on the wage-hour bill. Democratic Leader Rayburn hopes to take up the housing bill tomorrow.

Four tests faced the wage-hour bill before the vote on passage. One was a decision as to whether it should be administered by a single official in the Labor Department or by a five-man board as voted by the Senate. The other was a strongly-backed proposal to send the bill back to committee for revision.

Administrative chiefs forecast the bill would be beaten, despite a last-minute appeal for such action by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Urges Recommitment.

Mr. Green telegraphed every member of the House urging recommitment, and legislators said other Federation officials telephoned Congressmen.

Mr. Green's telegram was greeted with boos from some members when read at the desk.

Yesterday's principal test on the wage-hour bill came on a proposal by Representative Lammie, Democrat, of Ohio, to substitute a measure under which the Federal Trade Commission would outlaw products produced under oppressive labor conditions.

He argued the administration bill would give the President so much power he could "remand" in effect as long as he pleases and name his successor.

Representative Rayburn spoke against the substitute, declaring the Federal Trade Commission already was overburdened and that it would be "most tragic" to give it more work. Representative McCreynolds, Democrat, of Tennessee, leader of the Southern bloc opposing the administration bill, supported the substitute. He said he would rather put administration of "this monstrosity" under the Federal Trade Commission than "some one we don't know."

Substitute Beaten, 144-95.

The Lammie substitute was beaten, 144 to 95.

Tentative approval was given to an amendment by Representative Bulwinkle, Democrat, of North Carolina, for employment of minors between midnight and 6 a.m. and to require time and a half payment for others working those hours.

Prospects for action on the housing bill before Christmas depended chiefly on the Senate Committee, which was making slow progress.

Democratic Leader Barkley said, however, he would make arrangements if possible for it to report during the week end, so the measure could be considered Monday.

This would leave a heavy schedule for the outset of the 1938 session. For weeks some of the administration's wage-hour and farm bills. Then the anti-lynching bill would be taken up in the Senate, to be followed by the administration's Government reorganization measure.

ILL BUS HOLD-UP MAN HELD FOR GRAND JURY

Pleads Guilty in Police Court and Is Ordered Examined for Possible Treatment.

Judson Kingman, 26, of the 3000 block of H street N.W., who waited three hours Wednesday to surrender to Detective Sergt. Joseph Shimon and Harry Britton as the robber who took \$9 from a Capital Transit Co. bus driver on December 6, pleaded guilty to robbery and was held under \$1,000 bond for grand jury action when arraigned before Judge John P. McMahon in Police Court today.

Kingman, who had known Sergt. Shimon for many years, waited at police headquarters so that the detective would be the officer to be credited with the arrest. He told Sergt. Shimon he had planned the robbery to obtain money with which to pay for treatment for a lung infection.

Judge McMahon was informed of the circumstances and ordered Kingman's examination and treatment, if necessary, pending final action in the case.

Attacker Hanged.

COVINGTON, Ky., Dec. 17 (AP).—John Montjoy died on the gallows at the City-County Building here today, 2½ years after the young Negro was convicted of criminal attack on a white woman. Sheriff Ennis Kenny said the Negro was pronounced dead at 8:18 a.m. There was no demonstration outside the building, where only a small crowd gathered.

Racing Results

Charles Town.

FIRST RACE—Purse, \$400; for 2-year-olds maidens; 4½ furlongs; 5:00, 3:40, 3:40, 3:40, 3:40.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

SECOND RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

THIRD RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

FOURTH RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

FIFTH RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

SIXTH RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

SEVENTH RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

EIGHTH RACE—Purse, \$400; claiming; for 2-year-olds and up; 4 furlongs; 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30, 4:30.

Also ran—Clifton's Nugget, Gold Crescent, Mr. Dominator, Ye He's an Un.

'BUTCHERY' MARKS FALL OF NANKING

Correspondent Reveals Picture of Savagery, Plundering, Panic and Suffering.

By A. T. STEELE.

Chicago Daily News Correspondent.

NANKING, Dec. 16 (Delayed).—Japanese reports have told exultantly of the Japanese assault and capture of Nanking and the triumphal entry of their army, but they have told little of the tremendous human drama enacted inside the capital's walls before and after the city's fall.

So much of excitement, pathos, suffering, panic and savagery was crammed into those few days that it cannot be adequately told in a few hundred or even a few thousand words. All I can hope to do in this story is to narrate a few things I have seen with my own two eyes in the hope that they will convey some impression of the experience through which the city has gone.

Homes Needlessly Fired.

I saw Chinese troops needlessly applying the torch to whole blocks of homes and shops around the city walls, dispossessing thousands in a futile attempt to impede the Japanese attack.

I saw a terrific two-day bombardment of Nanking's defenses, which finally softened and shattered Chinese resistance.

I heard the din of cannonading and machine-gunning accompanying the final Japanese assault on the strongly held south gate, where towering towers of flame lit up the battlefield.

Later, I saw a scene of butchery outside that gate where the corpses of at least 1,000 soldiers lie in every conceivable posture of death, amid a confusion of fallen telephone and power lines and charred ruins—apparently trapped by the closing of the gates.

I saw Chinese troops looting shops and homes, but later I saw the Japanese troops outside them in a campaign of pillage, which the Japanese carried out not only in the shops but in homes, hospitals and refugee camps.

Panic in Escape.

I saw Chinese multitudes beginning their retreat through the city's north gate, the only remaining exit. Then I saw that hurried but orderly withdrawal become a pell-mell rush and, finally, a milling panic as the last line of escape was cut off.

I saw hundreds of Chinese tear off their uniforms in the street, some donning civilian clothes, others running off in their underwear. Many came to me and to other foreigners imploring protection and offering guns and money in exchange.

I saw fear-crazed troops attempt to force their entry into the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and, when denied, begin to toss guns, revolvers and machine guns over the walls into the hands of the startled missionaries, who gingerly stowed them away for surrender to the Japanese.

These things too, I saw:

A frightened soldier crawling under a German flag; hundreds of wounded crawling and limping through the streets beseeching every passerby for assistance; Japanese soldiers impressing coolies and donkeys into service to carry their loot; Japanese machine-guns moving through the streets in the moonlight killing anyone who dared to look at them; Japanese systematically searching houses and seizing many plainclothes suspects, scores of these bound men being shot one by one while their condemned fellows sat stolidly by, awaiting their turn.

Civilians Bayoneted.

I saw the Japanese beating and jabbing helpless civilians and in the hospitals I saw many civilians suffering from bayonet wounds.

I saw the dead scattered along every street, including some old men who could not possibly have harmed any one; also mounds composed of the bodies of executed men.

I saw a grisly mess at the North Gate, where what once had been 200 men and now a smoldering mass of flesh and bones.

Outside the gate I saw rope ladders, strips of clothing and blankets hanging from the wall where many had escaped from the city after finding the gate closed, only to fall into a deadly trap.

Mr. Roosevelt volunteered the information on slum clearance funds at his press conference today, thereby further confusing an already confused situation.

It was pointed out that when Congress created the United States Housing Authority to carry out the President's plans for slum clearance and a widespread low-cost housing plan, it authorized an appropriation of \$500,000,000, but actually appropriated only \$100,000,000 for immediate use.

The District's immediate wants in this connection are fixed at \$1,800,000. In the case of other cities throughout the country, it is possible for Mr. Straus, under the Housing Authority law, to raise money by issuing bonds, but in the case of the District there is a question about the legality of this procedure. This is one of the problems that will be discussed at tomorrow's conference.

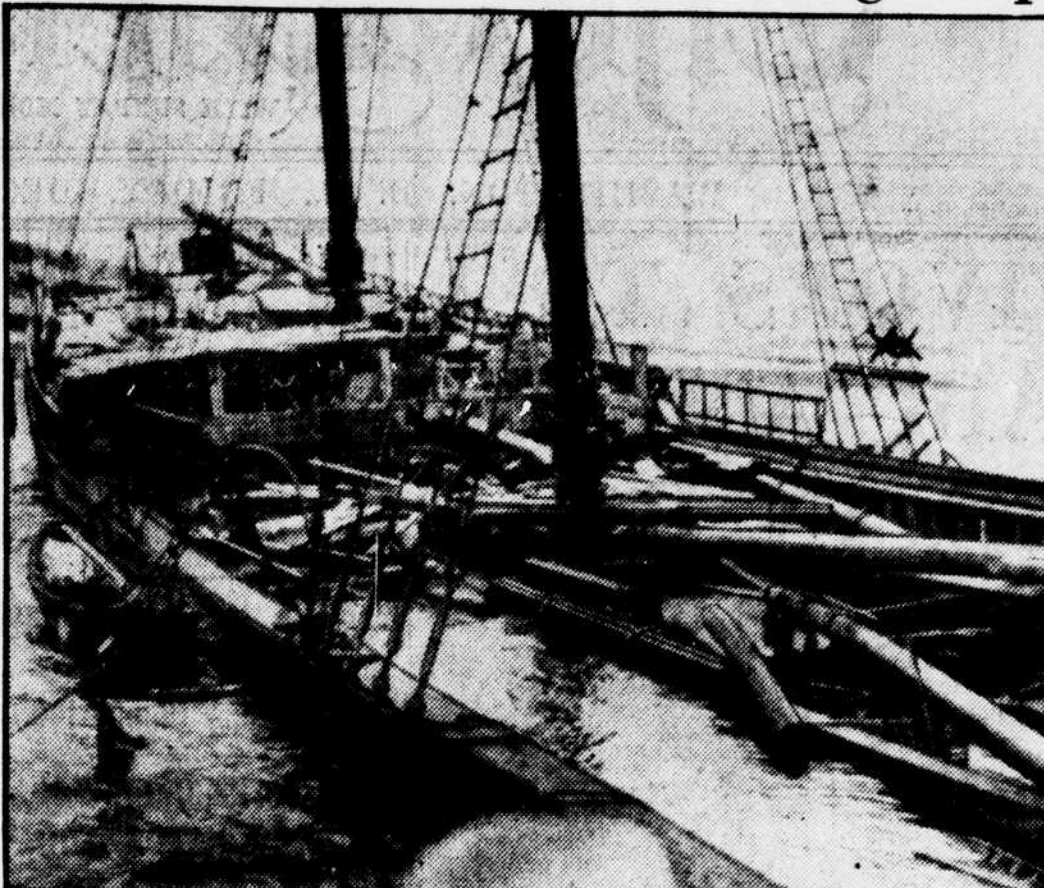
Thief "Pays" for Use of Car.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 17 (AP).—Albert Donahue was pretty peeved when he reported to police that his automobile had been stolen from his garage.

He felt much better when he came back to find that the car had been recovered, and not just because he had his car again, either.

The thief had "paid" for the use of the car by filling the gasoline tank.

Refuse to Leave Rotting Ship



PARLEY TO DECIDE SLUM WORK FUND

Holder and Straus Confer Tomorrow to See if D. C. Can Get Money.

President Roosevelt today announced there would be a meeting, possibly tomorrow, between John Holder, director of the District Alley Dwelling Authority, and Nathan Straus, head of the United States Housing Authority, to determine definitely if there is actually any money available in the Housing Authority's funds for immediate use in the District's slum clearance work.

Another Californian, Representative Voorhis, said, however, theatrical workers could be exempted later, and urged:

"In the meantime, let's protect the millions of other children."

D. C. HUNTERS HUNTED BY NEARBY WARDENS

Maryland Game Department Says 22 Arrested Using Licenses Gotten Illegally.

By the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.—The State Game Department disclosed today that its wardens in Montgomery and Prince George's County have done a little special hunting themselves this season with Washington sportsmen as the principal victims.

Harold S. Kolmer, executive secretary of the department, said the wardens had waged an effective campaign against use by Washingtonians of county resident hunting licenses obtained illegally. Twenty-two arrests and convictions, with fines of \$20 and costs in each case are on the department's books so far.

Kolmer said some Washington hunters each year apply for county licenses by giving fictitious addresses in the county where they wish to hunt. The county resident permits cost \$1.25, while the non-resident licenses, which they should procure, are \$15.50.

Kolmer said 11 arrests had been made in Prince George's County; 6 in Montgomery; 3 in Calvert and 2 in Charles.

In addition, 13 Pennsylvanians have been arrested on similar charges, in Carroll, Cecil, Washington and Wicomico Counties.

Translator PICKED FOR WORLD RADIO CONFERENCE.

MISS SALLY HOLMES, Daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs. Ralston Holmes, who will leave shortly for Cairo, Egypt, to attend the World Radio Conference. She will be an official translator for the State Department at the conference.—Harris-Ewing Photo.

6 More Days to Buy Christmas Seals

GREETINGS 1937

Did you know... that Clemens Perquet of Austria first successfully applied the tuberculin test in 1907?

MISS SALLY HOLMES, Daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs. Ralston Holmes, who will leave shortly for Cairo, Egypt, to attend the World Radio Conference. She will be an official translator for the State Department at the conference.—Harris-Ewing Photo.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES OFFERED

Seven Amendments Await Consideration When Congress Reconvenes.

By J. A. O'LEARY.

Even changes in the Federal social security law, described as "non-controversial" by President Roosevelt when he submitted them yesterday, will be awaiting consideration by House and Senate committees when Congress reconvenes after the Christmas holidays. According to a memorandum furnished to congressional leaders, the amendments would accomplish the following:

Extend the social security law to seamen on American ships.

Extend the law to employees of national banks, of State banks belonging to the Federal Reserve System, and to employees of institutions coming under the Home Loan Bank system.

Permit persons now 60 or more years of age to continue working through 1941 to qualify on retirement for monthly old-age annuities, instead of receiving small lump-sum payments.

To Meet State Requirements.

To enable "merit rating" in State unemployment compensation laws to work by making technical changes in the social security act.

To pay death claims direct to the wife or dependent children and save expense of probating estates, as is done in veterans' laws.

To aid in simplifying employers' wage reports by amending certain definitions in the law.

To permit earlier payment of unemployment compensation in States that passed their laws late. Referring to this amendment, the memorandum explained:

"For two years, funds have been built up in the States. With increasing unemployment this will get money earlier to those laid off."

No mention was made in the memorandum of the controversial question of whether the Federal old-age annuity plan should be kept on the present full reserve basis, or modified, and Chairman Harrison of the Senate Finance Committee said last night he did not believe the reserve issue would come up during the approaching regular session.

Senator Harrison pointed out that the rate of pay roll taxation for Federal old-age annuities does not increase to the next step until 1940, indicating he does not regard the question of changing the reserve basis as urgent.

He pointed out also that the whole subject of reserves is still being studied by the Advisory Council of Experts appointed by the President, and the Finance Subcommittee. Senator Harrison added that thus far he has not changed his mind on the full reserve plan as written into the original law.

Senator Vandenberg, Republican, of Michigan made it clear last night, however, that he still believes Congress should do something about the method of building up the reserve, and does not think it should wait until the tax rate changes in 1940 to act.

Sees Economic Menace.

It has been estimated that the full-reserve basis in the present law will build up to a fund of \$47,000,000,000 by 1980, and Senator Vandenberg contended this needlessly creates a fiscal and economic menace.

The advisory council now studying the reserve plan is the result of a resolution which the Michigan Senator introduced last January, and he indicated today he wants to wait a reasonable length of time for the council to submit its conclusions before seeking legislative action to amend the full-reserve system. He believes, however, that inevitably Congress will have to take up the question eventually.

Senator Vandenberg suggested at the last session that the \$47,000,000,000 full reserve could be altered either by increasing pensions to those retiring within the next 10 to 20 years, or leave benefit payments unchanged and keep pay roll taxes down to the present rate of 1 per cent each from employer and employee for at least 10 years, and possibly longer.

While no definite move may be made to alter the reserve feature of the law until the pending non-controversial amendments are taken up, the consideration of these minor changes is likely to revive discussion of the reserve problem.

GIRL RESERVES PLAN PERFORMANCE SUNDAY

Christmas Story to Be Given at Y. W. C. A.—Two Choirs of 106 to Take Part.

A Christmas story, "Why the Chimes Rang," will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday by the Girl Reserves of the Young Women's Christian Association in Barker Hall, Seventeenth and K streets N.W.

The hall will be transformed into a chapel. The stage choir, composed of 44 Junior Girl Reserves, will include girls from every junior high school in the city. In the balcony will be an antiphonal choir of the Senior Girl Reserve Glee Club of 62 voices.

Alice S. Morse is directing the play and Mary M. Burnett, music secretary, is in charge of the singing. Others assisting include Helen Middleton, Edith Dawson, Katherine Burnett and Peggy Graves.

Following the performance, the glee club will sing carols in the lobby of the Y. W. C. A.

THE WEATHER REPORT

District of Columbia—Occasional rain and slightly warmer with lowest temperature about 46 degrees; tomorrow rain, followed by clearing and somewhat colder in afternoon or night; moderate southwest shifting to northwest winds.

Maryland—Rain tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer in east and central portions tonight; colder in extreme north and northeast portions tomorrow; rain tonight; colder in west and central portions tomorrow.

West Virginia—Rain tonight and tomorrow; colder tomorrow and in north portion tonight.

A disturbance of moderate intensity is centered about 200 miles south of Baltimore. Nova Scotia, moving eastward with low pressure, is expected to reach the coast of New England tomorrow. Another disturbance of considerable intensity is moving northeastward over the lower Mississippi Valley, Monticello, Ark., is low and falling over Western Canada, and it continues low over Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska, 29.28 inches. Pressure is steadily rising in the plateau region, and it continues low over Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska, 29.28 inches. Pressure is steadily rising in the plateau region, and it continues low over Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska, 29.28 inches.

Over Newfoundland, Cape Race, New Brunswick, 30.16 inches, and pressure is high and rising in the plateau region, and it continues low over Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska, 29.28 inches. Pressure is steadily rising in the plateau region, and it continues low over Alaska, Kodiak, Alaska, 29.28 inches.

Over the Central valleys and the East Gulf States, rain or snow occurred during the night. In the Atlantic States, the Lake region and the North Pacific States, temperature changes have been slight.

River Report.

Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers clear at Harper's Ferry; clear at Great Falls today.

Report for Last 24 Hours.

Station	Temp.	Barometer	Wind	Clouds
Washington	44	30.00	W	Cloudy
Baltimore	44	30.00	W	Cloudy
Philadelphia	44	30.00	W	Cloudy
New York	44	30.00	W	Cloudy
Chicago	44	30.00	W	Cloudy
St. Louis</				